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Digest

RAY LEWIS
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R-K-O Radio—Hughes Deal Big News!

WITH the announcement by Floyd Odlum, President of Atlas Corp., that the control of R-K-O has passed into the hands of Howard Hughes, through the sale to Hughes of Atlas' 929,020 shares of stock at a price of $8,825,500, all the previous rumors concerning possible Hughes control, now become Big News, and a new flock of rumors have been set into motion.

Hughes produced "Hell's Angels" and gave the screen some marvellous flying scenes; these were the first flying scenes, of such magnitude, which the screen offered, but Hughes, also, discovered a real Motion Picture star, Jean Harlow, whose early death, after a vivid and successful career as a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star, was mourned by the Industry and a vast public. "Hell's Angels" was produced between 1929-30, and it was then reported that Hughes gave himself about a year for this production. Jean Harlow was not billed as the star of "Hell's Angels", but the star material was evident and soon a Jean Harlow picture was synonymous with Box Office.

Howard Hughes became of importance as a producer, and his next picture was awaited with interest. Since "Hell's Angels" Hughes has produced a few pictures, not any of them as good entertainment as "Hell's Angels", not any of them as big for profit return, but one in particular, "The Outlaw", was as widely discussed.

R-K-O Radio possesses a distinctive good-will asset, this spirit of good-will and co-operation emanating from its president, makes itself felt through its many fields of operation and through its various departments.

Its trade relations have, also, been excellent, its public relations of the finest calibre, and anything which would upset, or make negative such assets, would be in the spirit of throwing away millions of dollars.

We, therefore, hope, despite the many rumors, that the Hughes control will neither change the personnel of this company, nor its policy of operation. There has been reported, a statement from Howard Hughes to the effect that the president, Peter Rathvon, the executive vice-president, Ned Depinet, the production chief, Dore Schary, and their respective staffs could, if they so wished, remain in their present control.

There may be some technicalities in connection with this assurance from Howard Hughes, and the final decision may be up to the new board of directors.

Atlas Corp. still retains a large block of option warrants, the latter not included in the passing of the control to Hughes and would, therefore, be interested in the present and future operational policies of the company.

Mr. Odlum stated that he took Hughes' offer in preference to other offers which had been made to him. Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp. and Hughes Trans-World Airlines are closely associated in business, the latter company being an important customer of the former. Atlas Corp. happens to be an important shareholder of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp., its holding having a reputed value of approximately $25,000,000.

R-K-O's theatre investments, which include about 124 theatres and a sharing interest in 75 additional theatres, are said to have a value of $50,000,000. The control announcement sent the R-K-O shares up to their 1948 high; trading was active, but the prices remained on the same level.

While Hughes has in his control only 24% of the outstanding R-K-O film stock, the remaining shares of the film company are widely held, and his continued control is assured.

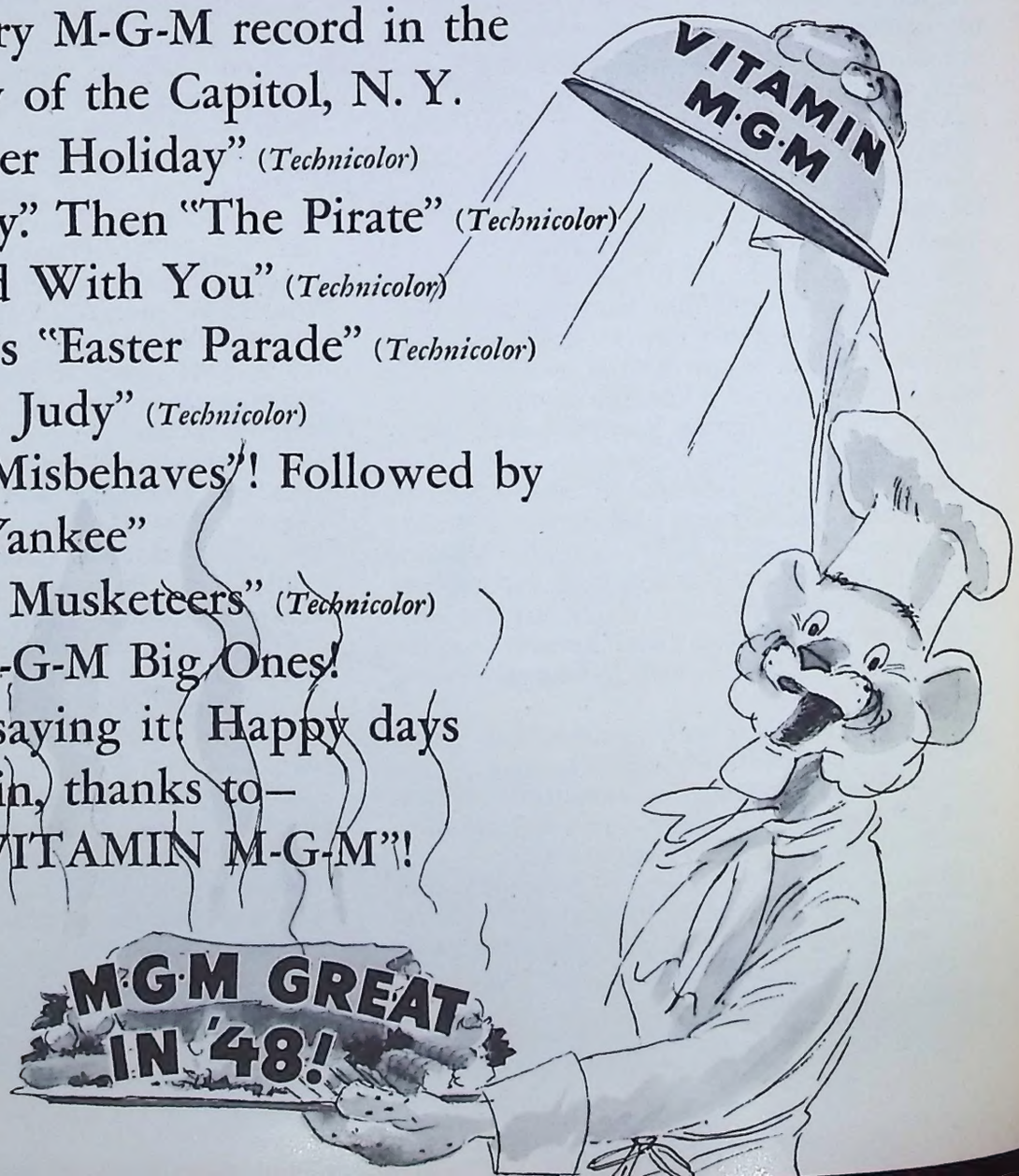
EDITOR.

PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
277 VICTORIA STREET - TORONTO

M·G·M HAS THE PICTURES!

At the Hunting Room of the Hotel Astor, N.Y. and wherever film men meet, theyr'e saying: "M-G-M is the talk of the industry."

Week after week
All Spring and Summer long!
One tasty dish after another!
Frank Capra's "State of the Union"...
A feast from coast-to-coast!
"Homecoming"...Wow!
Breaking every M-G-M record in the
Entire history of the Capitol, N. Y.
Then "Summer Holiday" (*Technicolor*)
And "Big City." Then "The Pirate" (*Technicolor*)
"On An Island With You" (*Technicolor*)
Irving Berlin's "Easter Parade" (*Technicolor*)
"A Date With Judy" (*Technicolor*)
Then "Julia Misbehaves"! Followed by
"A Southern Yankee"
Then "Three Musketeers" (*Technicolor*)
And more M-G-M Big Ones!
Everybody's saying it: Happy days
Are here again, thanks to—
Naturally—"VITAMIN M-G-M"!



RAY PRESENTS

THE Supreme Court decision, in respect to what we have been calling Divorcement, but which is, in reality, Divestiture, brings up a much-discussed question. The Film Industry, having well-digested its first shock of surprise, is now girding up its loins in an effort to end ten years of intermittent legal sparring and endless litigation.

A peace plan is in the process of being formulated, a plan which the Industry believes should satisfy all the backers of the Sherman Anti-Combine legislation. It is proposed that the majors will surrender some of their theatres, so that in every middle and big-time situation, product will become open for competitive bidding. Prior to the sale of theatres to Independent operators, a supplementary agreement will be made for a division of the available product, thereby insuring product for the theatres involved in this plan.

It is further proposed to secure the support of exhibitors' organizations for the proposed plan, before its submission to the Department of Justice. Exhibitors' support of the plan might prove convincing, although the Department of Justice is not obliged to accept the support so suggested.

Each situation would be dealt with separately and would not only involve affiliates, but complete major ownership theatres. Where the present control is out of proportion to Independent operation, irrespective of the fact that Independents are successfully operating their theatres, there would be a division of theatres made, and following the change of ownership, a division of first-run product would be made between majors and independents.

THE new peace plan follows to some extent former proposals in connection with a Consent Decree Plan, which plan included some divestiture of theatres by majors.

The entire Industry is awaiting a settlement of this decade of litigation, which has cost the Industry millions of dollars, and will cost it millions of additional dollars if a solution cannot be found, and found acceptable to the Department of Justice. Should the Department of Justice uphold its decision, and insist on Divestiture, the Industry will know what it means to be engulfed in an earthquake.

Stop to think what Divestiture means and what it will do to film values. The impact will be greater than the evolutionary processes which made the Silent Film silent as an Industry, and which introduced Talking Pictures.

The position of the Independent Exhibitor will not be improved, for where will he find the capital to purchase the theatres which will become available to him for purchase? He may be of the opinion that he will find such capital where the Majors found it. May be, but Capital is always interested in control and a control which means Big Business.

If Independent Exhibitors believe that there will be theatre bargains, they are likely to be mistaken, for it is possible that some of the Majors may offer their theatres to States, to municipalities, which would be starting Uncle Sam on his way to Government Film Control.

INDEPENDENTS will be obliged to forget some of their past grievances, and help to finish the fight, without too much bloodshed, which both started. Divestiture, today, cannot do anyone in this Industry any good. The time to have stopped producer-distributor-exhibitor control was at its inception. Today, the entire motion picture industry is honey-combed with such operation, and to perform a surgical operation which will remove the growth and not kill the patient, which is the Film Industry, would be in the nature of a miracle.

The Majors can equally shoulder the blame for Divestiture, with the Independents, for they grew too quickly, too greedily, too possessive and their give-and-take spirit was not too conspicuous.

But "cutting off one's nose to spite one's face", or committing suicide on your enemy's doorstep may rid one of inhibitions, but what problem does it solve? Independent theatre owners do not produce, nor do they distribute pictures, and what good are theatres without pictures, particularly good pictures. More millions of dollars have gone into motion picture production, by majors, than have gone into their theatres. Even the present good market for selling popcorn and confectionary is good, because the theatres attract a buying public, therefore, theatres without pictures would not be profitable investments for selling candy.

IT is my personal opinion that all the trouble started with control of product and not theatre operation. I have met a few thousand independent exhibitors in my days, and it was not the first run, nor the top pictures which concerned them, it was getting some good pictures, a supply of average pictures, and some equitable kind of run, which would enable the independent exhibitor to attract a sufficient number of people to his theatre, who had not previously seen the pictures.

I do not believe that the Independent exhibitors would have been concerned about the number of theatres a major acquired, if the majors would have protected their theatres with their own trade mark, and given the Independent a chance to bid for a competitor producer's product. When the major goes into the Independent's zone and takes the product away from the Independent, through the power of theatre control and buying power, what can the major expect? The Independent likes to protect his investment as much as the Big Fellow, and before the Independent gives up the ghost, he is most likely going to make a great deal of noise. It is the accumulation of the "noise" and the "greedy policies of majors" which have precipitated this deadly and destructive situation which involves Divestiture.

IF this Industry cannot solve this problem, if it does not arrive at a just and reasonable peace plan, it will destroy itself. Television is not around the corner, it is here, and what would you prefer for trading purposes, 20,000 potential customers, to whom you can sell, or 146,000,000?

While the Industry of the United States is destroying itself from within, other nations are building up their Film Industry. A statement recently made by Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, London, is worthy of attention. At a dinner, at which the National Film Awards were given, Mr. Wilson said, "Tonight is a happy occasion, because it marks the end of a year in which British Films have gone from strength to strength. The awards presented, are not merely to the public's choice of top performances in Britain, but to the best performances in the world, because there's no doubt that the British Film Industry, today, stands first and foremost among the film industries of the whole world.

"We of the cinema-going public look to the film industry to provide a large proportion of

(Continued on Page 8)

Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

ACTION on the Federal war excise tax of 20 per cent on theatre grosses was expected in connection with the 1948 budget of Finance Minister D. C. Abbott, whose report would show a very heavy surplus on the past year's government financing.

General relief from direct taxation was not anticipated in Ottawa circles because there is no thought of Dominion elections until 1949 and the government does not yet have to make a bid for public favor by relieving the strain on the taxpayer's pocketbook.

Modification in some indirect taxes, such as the wartime amusement tax, would help the people take care of inflated prices but, of course, any reduction in the theatre tax might not be noticed in Ontario where the provincial government stands ready to take over. In this connection, however, it appears that total abolishment of the Federal amusement tax is what is necessary for the Ontario authorities to impose an equal Provincial levy.

* * *

United Amusement Corp. Limited, an affiliate of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has declared a dividend of 50 cents per share payable May 31st for shareholders of record on May 15th.

* * *

The American Federation of Musicians, headed by James C. Petrillo, has apportioned a fund among Canadian unions for free orchestral and band concerts during the coming months. The money, totalling $1,736-721, was raised by the Federation in its tax on recordings and transcriptions and the ruling has been made that the shared allotments must be spent by local branches of the Federation in the giving of free concerts. This also serves to provide employment for union musicians.

* * *

Confectionary counters and stands were installed at eleven B & F Theatres by Theatre Confections Ltd., a Famous Players subsidiary, over the week-end. Only six houses in the city circuit are at present without the self-contained candy units.

* * *

Maynard Film Distributing Co. Limited, Toronto, has secured the world rights for the venereal disease picture, "Sins of the Fathers", which was produced by Canadian Motion Picture Productions Limited at St. Hyacinthe, Que. The announcement was made by Paul Maynard, president of the Toronto company.

* * *

Manager Joe Paul of the College Theatre, Brantford, announced the giving of premiums to lady patrons in connection with the double bill which was topped with "Red Stallion".

The drive-in theatres have taken to the presentation of double bills in some locations. The Skyway at Stoney Creek and the Canadian Drive-In near St. Catharines have been offering two-feature programs. A new open-air theatre, the Sunset, has been opened on the Burford Highway, three miles west of Brantford, as the latest unit of its kind in Ontario.

Actual construction of the Park Drive-In at Britannia Bay, Ont., had not been started on May 15th but the large site had been graded and was ready for the erection of the screen and theatre front.

* * *

Arthur Silverstone, 20th Century-Fox Canadian dision sales manager, will be one of the several division heads honoring general sales manager Andy W. Smith, Jr., at a testimonial dinner to be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York, on May 28th.

* * *

The Community Theatre, East York, recently taken over from 20th Century Theatres by B & F, will hold a gala midnight show on May 23rd. Feature presentation will be Paramount's "Variety Girl". The North-East Drive-in Theatre will also hold a midnight show the same evening, and every Sunday midnight thereafter for the duration of the season.

* * *

Warners Canadian exchanges will join with the American branches in a 14-week sales drive, from May 23rd to August 28th. Last year was the first time since the Dominion war-time restrictions that Canada was able to participate.

* * *

Anticipating the full requirements for television in Canada where the situation only awaits the granting of operating licenses by the Dominion government through the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., I. H. Allen has organized a new company called Televideo of Canada. He has some ambitious plans for the company, the office of which is in his attractive premises at 130 Carlton Street, Toronto.

A number of applications for television broadcasting are known to be in the hands of the Canadian authorities and it may not be long before the Canadian public will enjoy the new form of entertainment.

* * *

A denial has been issued in Toronto that the J. Arthur Rank Organizantion is financing the making of a group of religious short-subjects by Beacon Productions at the Queensway Studios. The product would be distributed by a Rank company, it is stated.

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

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B & F Theatres will hold their annual party for managers and the head office staff on Sunday, May 30th, at the Chudleigh House. In attendance will be Sam Bloom, Sam Fine and other circuit executives. A dinner will be held, following which there will be dancing to the music of a well-known Toronto orchestra.

* * *

Mark Berman, United Artists Montreal booker, has resigned from United Artists, to join Independent Poster and Supply Company, Toronto, in an executive capacity.

* * *

Two pictures at Toronto theatres had what might be termed unusual competition. "The Iron Curtain" was playing at the Imperial Theatre when a film travelogue, "This Side of the Iron Curtain", was offered at the Eaton Auditorium. Then there was "Sitting Pretty" at the the Nortown and Victoria Theatres while the stage production, "The Baby Sitter", starring Menasha Skulnik, was an attraction at Massey Hall.

* * *

Paul Nathanson of Montreal, a former prominent figure in the Toronto film field, was a visitor in Ottawa on an undisclosed mission.

* * *

Lloyd Mills, former manager of the Bedford Theatre, Toronto, who is now manager of the Midtown Theatre, Buffalo, N.Y., was a Community Winner of Safety Citations, awarded "for the most outstanding efforts in promoting Safety in their communities during 1947". He was the only theatre manager in Western New York State so honored.

* * *

Gordon Lightstone and Win Barron have returned from a Paramount divisional sales meeting, in New York, which was under the direction of Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution.

Past Year Eventful For Ontario Theatre Industry

By O. J. SILVERTHORNE
Chairman, Board of Censors of Motion Pictures of Ontario

The year ending March 31st, 1948, was an eventful one for the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection Branch. It was marked by the large number of new theatres built and under construction, and also by the extent of major alterations that were completed. According to the number of permits issued, much renovation work is being, or will be, carried out during the immediate future.

Thirty new theatres were built; important alterations were finished on twenty-five licensed premises, while twenty theatres are in the process of being renovated. Indicative of the expansion of the motion picture industry in Ontario during 1947-48 is the fact that 935 projectionists were licensed this year, this number constituting an increase over the number of the preceding year.

Many Films Reviewed

The principal function of the Branch consisted of the review of films produced in the United States, the British Isles and the European continent. The staff of censors viewed 533 feature subjects of which a strikingly large number came from the British Isles and the Continent. Film of British and Continental origin were: British, 65; Russian, 6; Italian, 6; French, 3. The Board also viewed 3 Jewish dialogue films as well as films made in Canada, one of which was a re-issue. Other duties of the Branch which were carried out during the year included the inspection of all theatres, film exchanges and the licensing of Circuses and Travelling Shows.

Two New Developments

The advent of new techniques in the field of the Motion Picture Industry, including the possible development on a large scale of television in the near future calls, we believe, for the consideration of changes in the regulations of the Theatres and Cinematographs Act. It must be remembered that these regulations were set on the standards of the silent film.

Another development, worthy of note, is the general use of film for entertainment purposes in places other than the ordinary motion picture theatre. During the past three years, churches, schools, hospitals, homes and clubs have made increasing use of the motion picture. Drive-in Theatres, and town halls of some of our municipalities have added their competition to the regular motion picture theatre. It can be seen the Motion Picture Industry in this Province has extended its services to the public in a far reaching manner.

These developments have placed an additional burden on the Branch and its services. The safety, comfort and health, moral and physical, of the audience is the responsibility of the Branch.

Extensive Inspection Program

The extensive construction programme of the theatrical industry in Ontario's municipalities carried with it the additional problem of inspection and control of materials which entered into the building of places of amusement. There is no doubt that the support of the Canadian Standards Association, or of any organizations possessing the qualifications or facilities of that association, would be of material aid toward the rationalizing of the construction of theatres and toward the ultimate goal of increasing safety factors in such construction. Our regulations are designed primarily to reduce to a minimum all possible hazards to life and limb of theatre audiences.

The Drive-in Theatre is a new development in Ontario. There are five in operation and nine more are contemplated. The location of such theatres is planned to eliminate highway obstruction.

Many features have been added to the construction of new theatres. The Branch is glad to report that builders have provided construction with the latest appliances to eliminate humidity, drafts and sharp variations of temperature. which were a noticeable fault of the older type of air-conditioning machinery. Additional comfort is guaranteed to audiences by the provision of more leg room, i.e., more space is available per person than was heretofore the case. Most new theatres equipped with the latest type of projectors. These machines have meant considerably improved working conditions for the projectionist. They are designed to permit more time for the care and repairing of film.

Safety Precautions Stressed

A tendency has been evident on the part of film exchanges to supply theatres with film that has passed the stage of safety. Nitro-cellulose film is made up to the same consistency as gun cotton, and it is highly combustible. It must, therefore, be in perfect repair before it can be subjected to the intense heat of projection equipment. Laxity in revising such films before shipment to theatres by exchanges creates a hazard to the audience. Unless the distributors of film understand the significance of their responsibilities and attempt to rectify the situation, then it would seem that such revision must be carried out under the direction of the Department.

Co-operation between theatre owners, local municipal officials and the Branch reduced fire damage in Ontario theatres to a record low during the past year. It may be pointed out

O. J. SILVERTHORNE

that the Branch's inspectors made 3,500 calls on theatres and that in addition there were 900 inspections of film exchanges.

While the Branch has no direct responsibility with regard to the exhibition of non-burning 16 mm. film in halls, churches and homes, it is interested in passing its knowledge of safety to operators and persons who have jurisdiction during the showing of film of this description. There has been a noticeable expansion in 16 mm. entertainment during recent years. It would be advisable for those who are associated with this phase of the Industry to make a serious check on smoking, exit doors, inflammable drapes and seating arrangements. It is not known generally that the Department is responsible for the censorship of all film shown in such places of amusement.

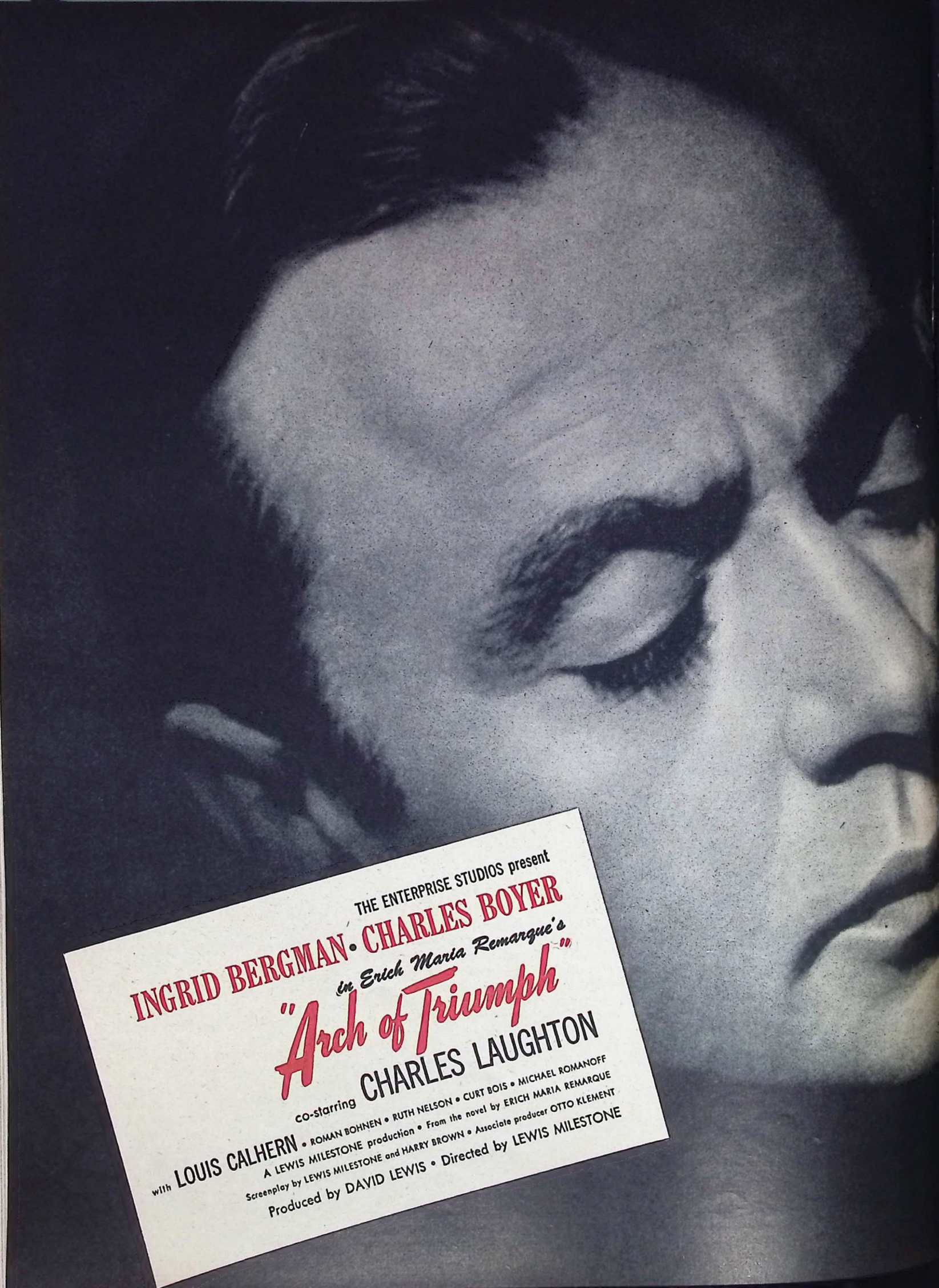
Foreign Films Encouraged

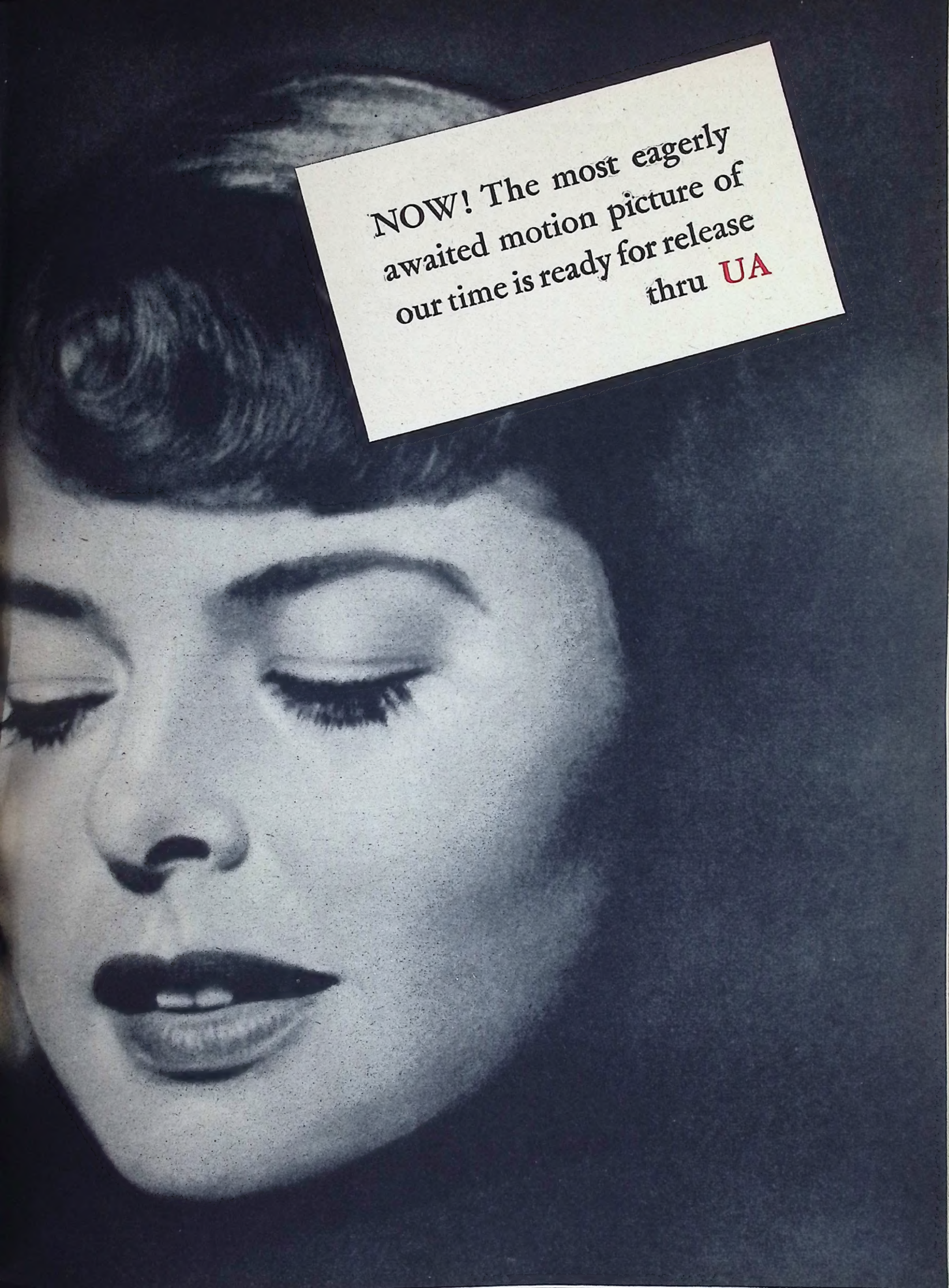
It is interesting to note that film from the British Isles and from Europe is of a high calibre. Some of these films, including several Italian operas with leading native voices, have been well received by lovers of good music. The promoters who showed such films in Canada have been vindicated in their belief there was a good audience potential for such films. This high type of entertainment, owing to its educational value, should, we believe, receive the broadest possible support from the people of this Province.

The Department has been careful in keeping a close watch on propaganda films from overseas. These films are of the 16 mm. type. Efforts have been made in some quarters to show them to new Canadians in an attempt to enlist their political sympathies for the new regimes in their native countries.

A review of the work of the Branch's censors shows that Great Britain provided one for every 6 films from Hollywood, and also that Great Britain and Continental Europe together submitted one film for every 4½ originating in the United States.

(*Continued on Page* 10)


THE ENTERPRISE STUDIOS present
INGRID BERGMAN • CHARLES BOYER
in Erich Maria Remarque's
"Arch of Triumph"
co-starring CHARLES LAUGHTON
with LOUIS CALHERN • ROMAN BOHNEN • RUTH NELSON • CURT BOIS • MICHAEL ROMANOFF
A LEWIS MILESTONE production • From the novel by ERICH MARIA REMARQUE
Screenplay by LEWIS MILESTONE and HARRY BROWN • Associate producer OTTO KLEMENT
Produced by DAVID LEWIS • Directed by LEWIS MILESTONE


NOW! The most eagerly
awaited motion picture of
our time is ready for release
thru UA

« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

ANNE MARRIOTT, well - known Canadian poet now associated with the National Film Board in Ottawa as a writer, wrote the words for "Cities", a song which has been entered in the Olympiad Arts Competition to be held in London, England, this year. Music for the song was composed by Barbara Pentland of the Toronto Conservatory, who has collaborated several times in writing music for Miss Marriott's radio plays broadcast over the CBC. Miss Mariott, who is a former resident of Vancouver, has provided a number of scripts and commentaries for National Film Board productions, including "Small Fry" and "Red Runs the Fraser". She is also winner of the Governor General's Award for Canadian poetry.

* * *

Arthur Silverstone, Canadian general manager for 20th Century-Fox Films, accompanied by Sam Glazier, publicity director, spent several days in Ottawa previous to the opening of "The Iron Curtain".

* * *

Angelo Stevens, former manager of the Imperial, Regent and Rideau Theatres, reports many new theatre accounts for his "dinnerware giveaways" as box office attractions. With the giveaway firmly established in Ottawa and throughout the Upper and Lower Valley, Angelo will be leaving shortly to open branches for his company in the West.

Manager Ray Tubman placed the huge Capitol Theatre at the disposal of the Ottawa Humane Society for a special showing of the film "My Pal Wolf", which was attended by several thousand children as a prelude to "Be Kind to Animals Week".

* * *

The management of a neighborhood theatre was taken to task by an Ottawa lady who wrote the Journal editor protesting against the showing of Walt Disney's "Fun and Fancy Free" on the same bill with "Deep Valley" . . . and advertising it "Great Family Entertainment". The lady, who had taken her young son to see the Disney film, said, "Children are attracted to the theatre by pictures of the Disney type. It seems to me that when such a picture is shown on a double bill, the management should make every effort to display an accompanying picture of equal merit". The lady really has something there.

* * *

The cinema theatre is bucking some tough opposition this week in the form of the Hamid-Morton Circus at the Auditorium. The indoor show is being presented for six nights and five matinees under the Auspices of the Ottawa Kiwanis Club and is attracting large audiences at both afternoon and evening performances.

The Stage Society, a group of professional Canadian, English and American actors and actresses organized by Hugh Parker to present a series of six plays here and on tour made its initial bow the other evening in the auditorium of La Salle Academy. First play of the series, "While the Sun Shines", was staged under the personal supervision of Malcolm Morley, twice adjucator of the Dominion Drama Festival, who is resident producer for Mr. Parker .

* * *

Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra played to near capacity on the night of May 11th at the Ottawa Coliseum. Dance lovers paid $2.00 at the doors ($1.25 in advance), for the privilege of dancing to the music of the "Sentimental Gentleman" and his merry sidemen.

* * *

Hold-overs of recent date included "Sitting Pretty" which manager Ernie Warren is showing in the dual Elgin Theatres, and "Cass Timberlane" which manager Ray Tubman stretched for an extra few days previous to the premiere of "The Iron Curtain".

* * *

Al Leary, well-known in Toronto radio circles, is one of three applicants heard by the CBC Board of Governors for permission to establish a television station in Toronto. Other applications came from stations CHML, Hamilton, and station CKEY, Toronto.

RAY PRESENTS

(*Continued from Page* 3)

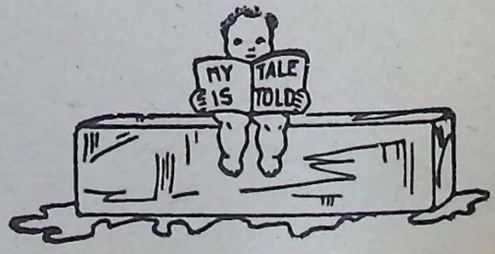
our entertainment in the next four or five years. We now no longer fear any competition from any part of the world and I know that it will be the government's desire to do all it can to help British film producers to go on producing the kind of films we are honoring tonight?"

The Daily Mail Publisher, Lord Rothermere, sponsor of the Film Awards, introduced the Award Winners and said, "The more people who come forward to help the British Film Industry, the happier we shall be. Through the Overseas Daily Mail, we have started an entirely new award in Canada to try to popularize films there and hope to start one in Australia".

"DUEL IN THE SUN" opened at Loew's Theatre, Toronto, to popular prices. Line-ups were in evidence at the box office. "Sitting Pretty" went into a ninth week at the Nortown and Victoria Theatres, the management apologizing, in a clever advertisement to the public, for staying over another week. Last week was announced as the final week. At the Eglinton and Tivoli, R-K-O's "I Remember Mama" is proving popular fare. Charles Laughton and Ray Milland, in Paramount's "The Big Clock", are lining up patrons; the picture is a real thriller mystery, with the stars doing fine work, in a fascinating story.

Johnny Cohn's defence of Premiums in Theatres is a natural defence, since Johnny has been in the Premium business, profitably, for years. Whether a theatre uses premiums or other box office attractions, whether it sells popcorn or candy, or both, Showmanship is in show business, and without Showmanship and Good Pictures, there is no Show Business, and eventually, red, red figures.

"The Iron Curtain", at the Imperial, Toronto, started off with only a little excitement, in front of the box office, from those who opposed its exhibition. The New York attitude did not reach Toronto. I have not seen this recently produced 20th Century-Fox picture, but those who have seen it, say it is well-done.



Fox Offers Strongest Product During Next Three Months

One of the strongest schedules of pictures ever offered by 20th Century-Fox will be released during June, July and August, it was announced by Andy W. Smith, Jr., General Sales Manager.

Of the eleven pictures scheduled, the June quota will include "Green Grass of Wyoming" in Technicolor, "Deep Waters" and "The Counterfeiters". For July, the company announces "Escape", "The Street With No Name", "Mine Own Executioner" and "The Checkered Coat". In August, the company will release "The Walls of Jericho", "Give My Regards to Broadway" in Technicolor, "Fighting Back", and "The Winner's Circle".

Production details for the three-month program are as follows:

June

"Green Grass of Wyoming", color by Technicolor, from Mary O'Hara's best-selling novel, starring Peggy Cummins, Charles Coburn and Robert Arthur, with Lloyd Nolan, Burl Ives and Geraldine Wall. Produced by Robert Bassler and directed by Louis King. Screenplay by Martin Berkeley.

"Deep Waters", starring Dana Andrews and Jean Peters, with Cesar Romero, Dean Stockwell and Anne Revere. Produced by Samuel G. Engel and directed by Henry King. Screenplay by Richard Murphy, from the novel "Spoonhandle" by Ruth Moore.

"The Counterfeiters", a Reliance Picture, starring John Sutton, Doris Merrick, Hugh Beaumont, with Lon Chaney. Produced by Maurice H. Conn and directed by Peter Stewart. Screenplay by Fred Myton and Barbara Worth from an original story by Maurice H. Conn.

July

"Escape", starring Rex Harrison and Peggy Cummins. Produced by William Perlberg and directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz. Screenplay by Philip Dunne from the John Galsworthy play.

"The Street With No Name", starring Mark Stevens and Richard Widmark, with Lloyd Nolan and Barbara Lawrence. Produced by Samuel G. Engel and directed by William Keighley. Original screenplay by Harry Kleiner.

"Mine Own Executioner", an Alexander Korda production, starring Burgess Meredith and Kieron Moore, with Dulcie Gray, Christine Norden and Barbara White. Directed and produced by Anthony Kimmins, from the novel by Nigel Balchin.

"The Checkered Coat", a Belsam production, starring Tom Conway, Noreen Nash and Hurd Hatfield. Produced by Sam Baerwitz and directed by Edward L. Cahn. Screenplay by John C. Higgins from an original story by Seeleg Lester and Merwin Gerard.

August

"The Walls of Jericho", starring Cornel Wilde, Linda Darnell, Anne Baxter and Kirk Douglas. Produced by Lamar Trotti and directed by John M. Stahl. Screenplay by Lamar Trotti from the best selling novel by Paul Wellman.

"Give My Regards to Broadway", color by Technicolor, starring Dan Dailey, with Charles Winninger, Nancy Guild, Charlie Ruggles and Fay Bainter. Produced by Walter Morosco and directed by Lloyd Bacon. Screenplay by Samuel Hoffenstein and Elizabeth Reinhardt. Based on a story by John Klempner.

"Fighting Back", a Sol M. Wurtzel production, with Paul Langton, Jean Rogers, Gary Gray and Joe Sawyer. Directed by Mal St. Clair. Story and screenplay by John Stone.

"The Winner's Circle", a Richard K. Polimer production, with Jean Willes, Morgan Farley, Johnny Longden, Bob Howard, William Gould, John Berardino, Frank Dae and Russ Conway. Produced by Richard K. Polimer and directed by Felix E. Feist. Original screenplay by Howard J. Green. Additional dialogue by Leonard Praskins.

Music Angles Help Sell "Night Song"

Music was the theme of a highly successful campaign staged by Jack Randall, manager of the Strand Theatre, Vancouver, for R-K-O's "Night Song", which includes a piano concerto played by Artur Rubenstein. The latter fact was the occasion of a tie-up with the personal appearance of this artist which coincided with the showing. The campaign started with a trailer on the screen two weeks in advance. A special intermission disc, cut with "Night Song" music, was run six times a day with an opening special commentary. There were also special lobby and window displays two weeks before the opening. The concerto from "Night Song" was played with credits over four networks, free of charge. The B. G. Electric Company co-operated by permitting 100 window cards at all bus stops. Personal letters from Mr. Randall to all Vancouver music teachers and B.C. Festival officials contacted a personal invitation to attend the opening performance. This, plus a huge piano display in the lobby, backed by strong newspaper ads and radio time, added up to well over average business.

Weiner On New Assignment Marks Canadian SRO Head

Charles M. Weiner, Canadian division manager for Selznick Releasing Organization has been promoted to the position of midwest division manager for SRO, with headquarters in Minneapolis. He is succeeded in Canada by Joseph Marks, until recently sales manager of Pathe in London, England.

In Canada, almost a year, Weiner completed a most difficult job of arranging for the immediate distribution of "Duel in the Sun" and other Selznick product. Having completed his task of organizing the Canadian district, he is returning to his headquarters and home in Minneapolis, where his wife and daughter are residing.

During his year in Canada, Mr. Weiner has made many friends from coast-to-coast, who, while missing him, wish him well in his new assignment.

Montreal U-A Branch Wins 2nd Grad Sears Gold Cup

George Heiber, Montreal branch manager for United Artists, was the recipient this week of the Grad Sears Gold Cup trophy, emblematic of outstanding sales achievement during the 1947-1948 drive period.

Edward M. Schnitzer, eastern and Canadian sales manager, added the congratulatory message from Gradwell L. Sears to his own when he presented the cup to Heiber at a luncheon ceremony on Wednesday, May 19th. Charles C. Chaplin, U.A. Canadian division sales manager and the leading exhibitors of Canada were in attendance at the luncheon.

"The Montreal victory ", Sears said, "may come as a surprise to some of us in the Home Office. I'm sure it came as no surprise to you. You have proved to all that it is not always the biggest fish who control the pond. For your courage, resourcefulness and aggressiveness, my heartiest congratulations."

Heiber accepted the trophy on behalf of his branch personnel who led in the drive competition from start to finish. The branches affording the closest competition to Montreal were Chicago, Toronto and New Orleans.

Montreal, by becoming the second branch to gain a leg on the coveted annual award, gains possession of the Gold Cup for a one year period during which time it will be on prominent display in the office. The Chicago branch, second this year, took top honors last year when the Gold Cup competition was inaugurated.

Maritime News

By A. L. FAIRWEATHER

A unique and very thoughtful act was carried out by the management of the Franklin and Herschorn Theatres when, previous to the opening of their new theatre, the "Vogue" at Halifax, five hundred of those who worked on the building, with their families, were entertained at the theatre previous to the public opening. A screening was held and refreshments were served to the guests. The Mayor of Halifax was present and Hon. Mr. Connelly spoke of the value of friendly relations among those who worked together in the city and of the pride of Halifax in this new building. Mitchael Franklin and Peter Herschorn acted as hosts at the affair.

* * *

The sons of F. G. Spencer, Saint John, had a double bill in the Christening of their two sons, one (Gordon's) being called Fredcrick, Gordon making the boy "F. G. Spencer the third". The other boy was named Christopher Dickenson. Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Spencer, Grandparents, recently returned from a visit in New York.

* * *

Harrison Howe, manager of the Capitol, Saint John, is in charge of entertainment for the Kinsmen's Fair held in the city in aid of their fund for British Children. The Capitol is advertising "The Iron Curtain". On Saturday they will have a children's show with the R-K-O-Walt Disney feature, "Fun And Fancy Free" as well as showing "The Children's Village". The theatre management is undertaking an extensive advertising campaign on Cecil B. de Mille's "Unconquered".

* * *

"The Wistful Widow of Wagon Gap" showed most successfully at the Capitol Theatre, Saint John.

The Film and Theatre Bowling League of Saint John held a banquet at El Bellcano, to mark the season's ending. Thirty nine members were present. Cliff Bowes acted as M.C.; Arthur Earle played the music for dancing and Bernie Pitts made the arrangements for the evening. Billy Metz (Strand Theatre) and his team were the winners among teams, while Doris Selick (M-G-M), Gordon Stultz (International), Marge Allan (B & L), Helen Scott (Fox) and Bernie Pitts, (B & L), had the highest ladies average. Kenneth Lawson (Fitzpatrick Transfer) rolled the highest mens and double average. Walter Golding (Community Theatre) had the highest singles and Mary Coughlan (Paramount) the highest ladies single. Ida Michaelson (Fox) won the highest ladies double.

* * *

Bob Middleton, who has, during his eight months in this territory, made many friends in Saint John, has been transferred to the office of R-K-O at Toronto. His place at Saint John will be taken by Arnold Watson of Toronto.

* * *

The Capitol Theatre, Saint John, had a "Royal" showing with the twenty minute "Silver Wedding" reels and with the Anniversary and Investiture of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinborough in the Pathe news reels.

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The former Doris Holder, now Mrs. John McKenzie of Scotland, arrived in Saint John for a six months visit accompanied by her young son. As Miss Holder she was, for a number of years, the popular box office cashier at the Capitol.

PAST YEAR EVENTFUL FOR ONTARIO THEATRES

(*Continued from Page* 5)

These ratios reveal that overseas production is now closer proportionately speaking to that of the United States than has been the case for 10 years.

Generally speaking, the number of British and Continental films reached a higher technical quality than United States productions. The people of Ontario seem to realize this. They have shown their satisfaction by giving such films their fullest patronage.

Few Films "Adult"

Only 13 per cent of films submitted to the Censors were qualified as unsuitable for children. These were released with the proviso that on advertising and theatre fronts they should be identified as unsuitable for children. The method usually employed is to place a sign bearing the admonition "Adult Entertainment". However, a number of theatre owners have ignored this ruling. They have been warned that action will be taken if they fail to comply with the Branch's decisions in future. This policy was inaugurated in June, 1946. It has won the commendation of parents and social organizations. Only one film was certified for adult audiences only. This picture was definitely unsuitable for an audience including children, but was not considered harmful for adults.

A total of 39,877 pieces of advertising was submitted to the Board for examination, and, of these, 650 items were rejected, while 250 were amended to the satisfaction of the Board. Last year, the Branch examined 36,577 advertising items.

The following licenses were issued by the Department during the fiscal year: Theatres, 448; Projectionists, 935; Apprentice Projectionists, 161; Travelling Shows, 173; Miscellaneous, 199; Film Exchanges, 35 mm., 17; Film Exchanges, 16 mm., 11.

Citizens Co-operate

The Branch has enjoyed and profited by the co-operation of groups of citizens, interested in the maintenance of motion picture entertainment on a high level. Among them were Boards of Education, social service councils of our churches, I.O.D.E., and Home and School Clubs, whose spokesmen have reflected accurately, and, with sympathy, trends of thought. Relations between the Branch and its staff and local agencies, engaged in the distribution of 6,000,000 feet of films, which were produced in the U.S.A., Great Britain and on the Continent, have been cordial. The Branch expects to take over its new headquarters at Leaside, Ontario, shortly. The facilities, which are being provided for it, are modern in every respect, and will enable the Staff to carry on their duties under more pleasant conditions.

FOR SALE
THEATRE CHAIRS
We now have a very large stock of excellent reconditioned (as new) Theatre Chairs. Quantities up to 1200 of a kind. Immediate delivery.
NOW — New all-steel construction spring-edge, highest quality Theatre Chairs available.
7500 yards of imported carpet direct from England and Scotland.
Enquiries Respectfully Solicited
"LA SALLE"
RECREATIONS LTD.
(Theatre Seating and Carpet Division)
S. A. LECHTZIER, Pres.
945 Granville St. - Vancouver, B.C.

ROYAL SOUND MASTER
SOUND EQUIPMENT
The Golden Voice of the Silver Screen
Built for To-Day's Modern Theatre
To Meet the Demands of
To-Day's Progressive Exhibitor
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
WRITE - WIRE - TELEPHONE
PERKINS ELECTRIC
COMPANY LIMITED
277 VICTORIA ST. TORONTO
2027 BLEURY ST. MONTREAL

Winnipeg News

By J. J. CONKLIN

INTENTION of the province to "jump" into the amusement tax field vacated by the Dominion government was protested by the Manitoba Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association at law amendments committee of the legislature.

M. J. Finkelstein, representing the movie house group, claimed the proposed Manitoba tax would be a burden on low income groups. Since the last war tax had been imposed by the dominion, attendance at theatres had fallen off from 50 to 25 per cent, he said.

He said that amusement taxes, started during both wars, had never been entirely dropped although Ottawa had undertaken to do so when they were first imposed.

Manitoba exhibitors, later, supported by the national association, had petitioned the federal government to drop their tax, Mr. Finkelstein told the committee, and at the same time had given their assurance that the full benefit would be passed on to the public.

The effect of the province stepping into the tax field, he said, was to nullify all work put in by the association to bring about cheaper movie admissions. He submitted that, if there had to be a tax it should be municipal and not provincial.

"We are doing this in the interests of the general public but we are not philanthropists", he explained. "We know it will be better for our business and I would not like the committee to think we were trying to mislead them".

Mr. Finkelstein said he feared the dominion might not relinquish the amusement tax if it knew the provinces were ready to jump in and grab it.

Premier Stuart Garson objected to statements claiming the provinces were ready to grab taxes dropped by the dominion. "It is entirely erroneous to say this", he declared.

Mr. Finkelstein extended a tentative invitation to the government to use the screen to mould public opinion. Asked for further details by Mr. Garson, he said that details would have to be worked out but he did not mean to use the screen in a "partisan sense".

He suggested that government authorities could put the screen to use for educational purposes, adding that both government and industry had neglected to make use of its potentialities in this respect.

The legislature's law amendments committee agreed to a slight revision to the government's bill to levy an amusement tax of 25 per cent when the dominion government vacates this field of taxation.

Under the bill, admissions of 25 cents and up were to be subject to taxation with the tax on a 25-cent ticket being seven cents. The committee by a voice of 10 to 9, agreed to amend the bill so admissions up to and including 25 cents would not be taxed. The amendment approved by the committee still is subject to approval of the legislature.

An amendment submitted by M. A. Gray (CCF, Winnipeg), to exempt admissions from 25 cents to 28 cents was defeated. The government planned to introduce an amendment to tax tickets in the 25-28 cent range at the rate of five cents but did not get this proposal before the committee because of approval of the motion that admissions up to and including 25 cents would be free from taxation.

* * *

Sponsored by the Institute for Inter - Racial Friendship, two films — "It Happened in Springfield" and "Man, One Family" — were shown at the National Film Board screening room, recently.

* * *

The resignation of S. M. Miles, western theatrical representative of the National Film Board, was announced recently. For many year associated with the film industry in the city in various capacities, Mr. Miles was in charge of theatrical distribution of the Film Board's Canada Carries On series in western Canada. Before assuming that post, he was responsible for the successful organization of trade union and industrial film circuits in the city. Mr. Miles left the Film Board to join a private business organization.

NFB
The New
CANADA CARRIES ON
RELEASE FOR
MAY
"ART FOR EVERYBODY"
A
NATIONAL FILM BOARD PRODUCTION
Distributed by
COLUMBIA PICTURES

« Prairie News »

By BRUCE PEACOCK

A motion that children under 16 be banned from motion picture showings "until such time as producers turn out more inspirational productions" got short shrift at a meeting of the University Women's Club in Regina. No one seconded the motion and not a single hand went up in support. The motion was presented by Miss Agnes MacFarlane, national federation representative.

* * *

The life of Pete Knight, famous Alberta cowboy who was killed by a horse in California in 1937, may be filmed, according to his widow. She has signed an agreement with two independent motion picture producers at Chicago. Parts of the film would be made at Calgary and at the old Knight ranch at Crossfield, Alta.

* * *

M. Pyrcz, owner of the Gaiety Theatre in Leduc, Alberta., which was destroyed by fire last February, has announced his intention to rebuild the theatre on the same site as soon as weather conditions permit. Members of the Leduc branch Canadian Legion, the Lions club and citizens of the town and district turned out in force recently to give a hand in cleaning up the debris left by the fire.

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The Legion Theatre at Bienfait, Sask., closed since fire destroyed the projection room equipment several weeks ago, has been reopened. New projection equipment was installed.

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At Saskatoon, Gerald Dealtry, whose Ritz Theatre burned out within three months of his taking over, asked city council for a refund or partial rebate on the $70 business tax he had paid. He said he did not blame the city in any way but hoped some adjustment could be made. The matter was referred to the commissioner.

* * *

The Strand, Calgary, has installed the latest-type sound equipment, continuing its series of improvements, which includes new carpets, interior decorations and a candy bar.

THEATRE WANTED

Client desires to purchase or lease theatre in Ontario. All information will be treated confidentially. Send full particulars to:

MAXWELL SAUDER
Barrister
42 James South - Hamilton, Ont.

Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

QUONSET hut theatres are the newest style in movie houses. Odeon has constructed two at Brampton and Acton, Ont., and plans to erect five more in the Dominion this year. Hon. Earl Lawson, president and general manager of the Odeon organization in Canada and other J. Arthur Rank Canadian holdings, told the Digest that the Quonset hut theatre has far better acoustics than the traditional type and can be built faster, and are the ideal buildings for the smaller situations. One of these theatres is planned for the B.C. area, Mr. Lawson said. He is also pleased with the steady increase in attendance at British pictures, but feels that the public prefers a varied program, and that "people do not like a diet of one kind. They prefer to mix British-Hollywood pictures". Mr. Lawson conferred with Howard Boothe, district manager, and Earl Hayter, B.C. supervisor, and said they were doing a top-rate job here on the Pacific. Lawson will visit Odeon's two new theatres at Victoria and West Vancouver, which were completed since his last visit here, two years ago. Mrs. Lawson and Guy Upjohn were here with the Odeon head, who will spend ten days in Vancouver.

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Perry Wright, the new B.C. manager of Empire - Universal, who succeeded Leslie Plottel, is busy getting acquainted with the trade here. Bill Turner, formerly with YMCA war services and Canadian Pacific Airlines, is now assistant manager at the Paradise here.

* * *

Jack McCausland, head of the B.C. Maintenance and Engineering Department of Famous Players, is the proud daddy of a baby girl born this week. Mrs. McCausland is the daughter of J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players.

* * *

Pete Barnes of Toronto opened his new Lulu Theatre at Brighouse, B.C., May 12th. Spot is a modern moving picture theatre seating 450.

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The new policy inaugurated at the Strand Theatre, a single bill featuring outstanding attractions, looks like what the doctor ordered, and F-P officials are happy about the way the local folks are patronizing it. "Sitting Pretty", the first film under the new policy, led the town when the rest of downtowners were below average, which proves that patrons will turn out if you give them something they want.

* * *

Ivan Ackery, has his publicity campaign in high gear for the showing of "The Iron Curtain" at his Orpheum Theatre. He told the Digest that he is receiving a few complaints from the Red element who do not like the picture.

Willard Adamson, B.C. manager for International Film Distributors, lost his foot and a part of his leg in a major operation in a local hospital. He is coming along nicely at last report and is expected to be home shortly. Canadian Picture Pioneers and the industry here are making sure that Willard has every comfort during his illness.

* * *

Alexis Smith, Penticton's representative among B.C. film celebrities, is expected at her home town for the annual peach festival in August.

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Mayor Charles Jones of Vancouver was former motion picture censor of Vancouver in the silent days, and told of issuing the first licence for theatres to Frank Gow, now F-P B.C. district manager, and Willis Dewees, now a F-P partner in many British Columbia theatres.

Norman Duncan, manager of the International Cinema, is doing swell business with a pair of 20th Century - Fox re - issues, "Grapes of Wrath" and "Tobacco Road". "The Miracle of the Bells" did not do the expected business at the Capitol, and played only one week.

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Canadian Picture Pioneers dinner and business session, held at Hotel Vancouver, May 12th, had a good turn out of amusement business old timers. The guest of honor was J. Earl Lawson, president of CPP, who gave an outstanding address on the aims and objects of the CPP Benevolent Fund, and ways and means of increasing the fund. New members, welcomed by President Bob Foster, were Dave Borland, Dominion; Roy McLeod, Vogue; Lou Finstein, Roxy; Art Crute, Plaza; Art Grayburn, Odeon, and Charlie Doctor, Capitol. All are from Vancouver. Guy Upjohn of Odeon Theatres, Toronto, was also a guest of the CPP.

Trans-Canada Showing

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

BILTMORE
2nd week. "The Adventures of Robin Hood" (W-B re-issue), Technicolor, with Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland.

EGLINTON-TIVOLI
"I Remember Mama" (R-K-O), with Irene Dunne and Barbara Bel Geddes.

FAIRLAWN-DANFORTH
"The Woman In The Hall" (E-L), with Ursula Jeans, Jean Simmons and Cecil Parker.

IMPERIAL
"The Iron Curtain" (Fox), with Gene Tierney and Dana Andrews.

LOEW'S
2nd week. "Duel In The Sun (SRO), Technicolor with Jennifer Jones, Gregory Peck and Joseph Cotten.

NORTOWN-VICTORIA
9th week. "Sitting Pretty" (Fox), with Maureen O'Hara, Robert Young and Clifton Webb.

SHEA'S
2nd week. "The Big Clock" (Para.), with Charles Laughton and Ray Milland.

UPTOWN
"All My Sons" (U-I), with Burt Lancaster and Edward G. Robinson.

MONTREAL

AVENUE
"Nicholas Nickleby" (E-L), with Cedric Hardwicke.

CAPITOL
"The Swordsman" (Col.), Technicolor, with Larry Parks and Ellen Drew.

IMPERIAL
"Four Feathers" (Astral), Technicolor, with Ralph Richardson and June Duprez. Also "Elephant Boy" (Astral), with Sabu.

LOEW'S
2nd week. "Cary and the Bishop's Wife" (Goldwyn-R-K-O), with Cary Grant, Loretta Young and David Niven.

PALACE
"Cass Timberlane" (M-G-M), with Spencer Tracy, Lana Turner and Zachary Scott.

PRINCESS
"Albuquerque" (Para.), Cinecolor, with Randolph Scott and Barbara Britton. Also "Big Town After Dark" (Para.), with Philip Reed and Hillary Brooke.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"The Wistful Widow of Wagon Gap" (U-I), with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

MAYFAIR
"They Were Sisters" (E-L), with Phyllis Calvert and James Mason. Also "I Cover Big Town" (Para.), with Philip Reed and Hillary Brooke.

STRAND
"Copacabana" (M-G-M), with Groucho Marx and Carmen Miranda.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"My Wild Irish Rose" (W-B), with Dennis Morgan and Andrea King.

GARRICK
"Out of the Blue" (Int'l), with George Brent and Virginia Mayo.

METROPOLITAN
"Magic Town" (R-K-O), with James Stewart and Jane Wyman.

ODEON
"The White Unicorn" (E-L), with Margaret Lockwood and Dennis Price.

RIALTO
"Each Dawn I Die" (W-B re-issue), with James Cagney and George Raft. Also "Bad Men of Missouri" (W-B re-issue), with Dennis Morgan and Jane Wyman.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"The Voice of the Turtle" (W-B), with Ronald Reagan and Eleanor Parker.

GRAND
"Black Bart" (U-I), Technicolor, with Yvonne De Carlo and Dan Duryea.

PALACE
"Bambi" (Disney-R-K-O), Technicolor.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL
"The Miracle of the Bells" (R-K-O), with Fred MacMurray, Valli and Frank Sinatra.

ORPHEUM
"Tycoon" (R-K-O), Technicolor, with John Wayne and Laraine Day.

PARADISE
"Jezebel" (W-B re-issue), with Bette Davis, Henry Fonda and George Brent. Also "A Slight Case of Murder" (W-B re-issue), with Edward G. Robinson.

PARK-PLAZA
"Fame is the Spur" (E-L), with Michael Redgrave and Rosamund John.

STRAND
"Sitting Pretty" (Fox), with Maureen O'Hara, Robert Young and Clifton Webb.

VOGUE
2nd week. "Naked City" (U-I), with Barry Fitzgerald.